

March 23, 1978

LB 946, 956

PRESIDENT: Record your vote. Oh, all in favor say aye. Contrary say nay. The bill is advanced. LB 946.

CLERK: Mr. President, there are E & R amendments to LB 946.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I move the E & R amendments to LB 946 be adopted.

PRESIDENT: All in favor say aye. Contrary say nay. They are adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, I now have further amendments offered by Senator Barnett. Mr. President, Senator Barnett moves to amend LB 946 with amendments that Senator Labedz had printed on page 1240 of the Legislative Journal.

SENATOR BARNETT: I'd move for the adoption of the amendment if you'd want to turn to page 1240. I wasn't here the other day when they voted on this issue so therefore I offer these amendments, the Game and Park Commission to grant longevity for these conservation officers and it's at the top of page 1240, the amendment, if you'd want to turn to it and follow it, so I wish you would adopt the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner. Your light was on. Do you wish to talk to this issue?

SENATOR WARNER: Yes. As I indicated the other day, if the Legislature wants to establish a longevity concept for state employees, why then we may as well do some interim study or something, review it across the board for all state employees. When the issue was discussed the other day on these conservation officers someone suggested to me, well, perhaps we ought to add corrections, there's other law enforcement people if we're distinguishing just because of that in longevity. I can think of no logic in which you can expand it here and not continue to expand it in a number of other areas and if we're going to do it piecemeal, why then we may as well address the issue and do it across the board. That I also think would be a mistake but if twenty five of you wish to establish the policy of longevity this is the one time to do it. I don't think it's appropriate. I think the salary adjustments can reflect that in other ways than just in terms of longevity. We spend a great deal of money from a variety of ways, all of which are supposed to encourage employees to stay with state government. We make improvements in retirement systems to encourage people to stay with state government. We talk about adjusting salaries to keep them at an appropriate level with the jobs outside of government. We talk about the longevity. In each of these they're addressed separately as if that would resolve or encourage people to stay. I don't think that's the way we ought to resolve it and I would hope the body would vote down the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President, I'm not going to take up too much time this morning because I gave everything I thought was necessary yesterday, but I do want to again say that from one to five years it's 2%, six to ten years, 3%, eleven to fifteen, 4% and sixteen or more years it's 5%. There are fifty three officers. The total cost of this amendment would be \$29,144

08181